

## **IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program**

### **Coastal Advisory Board Meeting**

#### **Draft Minutes**

Wednesday December 17, 2014 – 10:00 AM CT

Lake County – Crown Point Community Library

122 N. Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **Attendees:**

**Voting:** Ray Joseph (Porter Co. Parks), Christine Livingston (Dunes Tourism), Dan Plath (NiSource), Bob Daum (NPS), Kris Krouse (SHLT), Tiffany Tolbert (Indiana Landmarks), Ken Purze (Citizen at Large), Nicole Barker (Save the Dunes), Geof Benson (Beverly Shores),

**Non-Voting:** Kathy Luther (NIRPC), Leslie Dorworth (IISG), Ashley Snyder (IDEM),

**Non-Board Members:** Sergio Mendoza (City of Hobart) Cory Johnson (Indiana Landmarks)  
Michelle Caldwell (IDEM), Sandy O'Brian

**LMCP Staff:** Mike Molnar, Maggie Byrne, Kacey Alexander, Dorreen Carey, Derek Nimetz

- Old Business not discussed
- New Business

- **Program Year in Review**

#### **Grants – M. Byrne: (Presentation available on website)**

Several slides comparing the number of Grant workshops in 2013 to the amount in 2014 were shown. The numbers are just a comparison as she also speaks with applicants in a one-on-one capacity before and after they complete their application. The amount requested for the 2014 and 2015 funding cycles were mentioned along with the number of applications, full proposals and awarded projects. There are currently 44 Pass-thru grant projects open. Unobligated funds from past years will be allocated towards projects which may need more funds or to 2015 grants. Maggie also discussed several grants that had been completed in the past year. These projects included CZ 113 City of Hobart Hobart Marsh Plan, CZ 138 LaPorte County – Stormwater Fiscal Incentives and Technical Design

Manual, CZ 223 Portage Township Parks Wayfinding Signage, CZ 221 Town of Merrillville Rain Garden, CZ 231 Michigan State University Jeorse Park Modeling.

**Non-Point Program – D. Carey (Presentation on Website):**

Dorreen described her activities that include the coordination and collaboration with other organizations. 6217 describes the NOAA/EPA requirements on how we need to address non-point source issues in Lake, Porter and LaPorte County. All of the requirements to be completely approved for our non-point source program have not been satisfied. This is due to some of the requirements being more stringent than they are in Indiana. A few 6217 measures were approved in the agriculture, wetlands, critical coastal areas, and monitoring categories this year. There are 56 measures in total, with approximately 10 that we are waiting for approval for from NOAA/EPA. In addition, Dorreen has been reaching out to coastal communities and water quality partners for improved septic system inspection and maintenance. Urban Waters is conducting focus groups in all three counties to see how they perceive septic systems and how they would like to receive information. This information will be used to help create meaningful educational tools.

**Resource Management – D. Nimetz: (Presentation on Website):**

Derek spent much of his time out in the field on natural area restoration, natural preserve management, and rare species monitoring. He also worked on public outreach by hosting field trips to such places as Amber Flatwoods and Liverpool Nature Preserves. He works with the grantees and offers technical advice on such things as what to plant in their rain garden, advice on what contractors to use, and what general advice as to what works well. He also writes articles for Outdoor Indiana, and this year wrote an article on the Karner Blue butterfly for the July addition. Derek also worked with conservation organizations helping them to prioritize areas that they want protected.

**Operations – K. Alexander: (Presentation available on website):**

Kacey has been working here for two months and has been busy checking quarterly financial reports as well as processing grant agreement amendments. She continues to work with grantees on a few financial reports from the second and third quarters. Kacey reminded everyone that in order to get paid, the required financial reports need to be correct and submitted to her. Quarter four reports are due January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Program Management – M. Molnar: (Presentation available on website):**

The amount of funding received for both State and Federal was compared to previous years. The amount of federal dollars is expected to remain constant while the State funding is expected to decrease. At this time last year, the Program began working on the 10 steps to planning for a strategic plan. This was started to help keep the Lake Michigan Coastal Program moving forward. This process was paused as a few individuals left, causing

vacancies. The Operations Specialist position has been filled, but the Coastal Resource planner position remains vacant. The project involving an online grants system was canceled in June due to contractor issues. June was coastal awareness month and many events were hosted and were well attended. The Rivers poster was created and unveiled in October. The Program Review with NOAA is still a work in progress and the final draft recommendations are not expected until after the holidays.

## **Committee Reports –**

### **TAPP:**

Mike Molnar– Would like to get a group of interested parties together to discuss their ideas regarding the open position that exists within the Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

### **Outreach:**

Maggie Byrne - There are funds available for Coastal Awareness Month event grants. The deadline to get in applications is February 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, which is also the deadline for small grants. Funding would be available in the beginning of May.

Mike Molnar – Grab a Rivers Poster

### **CELCP:**

Derek Nimetz - The two CELCP projects that NOAA approved to replace the Moon Valley project are Miller Dunes and Old Chicago Road. These two sites were chosen due to conservation value. The requirements are also geared more towards conservation value rather than recreation usage. There are no more CELCP dollars left and it is doubtful there will be additional funds in the near future.

## **Announcements:**

Geof Benson – January 10<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 3pm Dunes Learning Center Open House

Nicole Barker – February 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm at Barker House will feature a presentation on the Little Calumet River – East Branch Watershed Management Plan.

March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Barker House will feature a lecture on Mount Baldy

Kathy Luther – January 8<sup>th</sup> there will be an approximately 2 ½ hour workshop in regards to an Ecosystem Valuation Model created by The Conservation Fund. They will be looking for input.

Tiffany Tolbert - Indiana Landmarks and the Indiana Humanities Council make grants of up to \$2,000 available for educational projects related to historic properties in Indiana. Eligible projects include lectures, workshops, conferences, production of audiovisual materials, heritage and cultural tourism programs, and educational publications. Pre-proposals are due March 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

- Next Meeting - **February 18, 2015 - Informational Meeting** - 10:00 AM CT  
Sunset Hill Farm County Park Program Center Building, 775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383